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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 285, 379

accept a machine vote and then, depending on the results, move on to a roll call vote. However, I would ask for the advancement of LB 285. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis Senator Combs and Senator Cunningham. There's Senator Cunningham. Members, the question then before us is the advancement of LB 285 to E & R Initial. We are taking a machine vote. All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 285.

SPEAKER BROMM: LB 285 does advance. LB 379. I'll raise the call.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 379, a bill by Senator Hartnett. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 15, referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. At this time, Mr. President, I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, what 7...LB 379 does is restores the income tax rate to the nineties, 1997 level. We have in the past with a bill we just advanced, Senator Landis, we did about half of it. What I propose to do with this is to go back to where we were in 1997. Did we get credit for lowering the taxes in 1997? I think the answer is no. Because you can ask people in your community, and so forth, did the Legislature ever lower taxes? And the answer would be no. They forget that we did lower the income tax, we did lower the sales tax. So what I'm proposing with LB 379 is restoring that level again. What was the situation in 1997? I think that people have talked about it on this floor, we had lots of money. We did cut taxes, and we...but the situation today is completely different in the year 2003. We need revenue, and to me the income tax is the most...best taxes to raise. Why is it the best tax to raise? I think there is two reasons. First, the income taxes are deductible on federal returns, lowering the